

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 249

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Detective Brett Kniss of the Franklin Police Department on receiving the United States Attorney's Award for Excellence.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those law enforcement officers who have rendered exceptional service in their efforts to make Tennessee a safer place for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy law enforcement officer is Detective Brett Kniss of the Franklin Police Department (FPD) Criminal Investigation Division's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) who, along with three of his fellow FPD ICAC officers, received a United States Attorney's Award for Excellence for his efforts to combat online child pornography and predation; and

WHEREAS, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the ICAC Task Force Program was created to help state and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to offenders who use the internet, online communications systems, and other computer technology to sexually exploit children; and

WHEREAS, the program comprises forty-six regional Task Force agencies; each participating state has a lead agency responsible for coordinating investigations throughout the state, and the Knoxville Police Department (KPD) fills this role in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the KPD chose Franklin's Criminal Investigation Division as the home for a satellite office to serve the Middle District of Tennessee, and in the summer of 2005, this office began to take shape; and

WHEREAS, the FPD ICAC receives cases to be investigated from a variety of sources, including CyberTip referrals from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, referrals and case transfers from other law enforcement agencies, citizen complaints, and referrals generated during the course of other FPD calls and investigations; the Task Force also works proactively, conducting undercover online operations from their office; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin ICAC has generated more than seventy cases, resulting in over fifteen arrests across the region, and many cases in which arrests are imminent are currently under investigation. Moreover, the Franklin ICAC has cooperated with the U.S. Attorney's Office on twelve investigations, from which six joint prosecutions have developed; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their investigative work and ongoing contributions to the prosecution of offenders, the Franklin Task Force has made a number of presentations to community groups, civic clubs, schools, and congregations, and it has participated in a city-wide informational meeting designed to educate citizens about the Tennessee Sexual Offender Registry, as well as other tools and methods for protecting children from online sexual predators. The FPD ICAC is also a member of the Middle Tennessee Project Safe Childhood Coalition; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to the profession of law enforcement, particularly the work of the Franklin Task Force of which he is a critical component, Detective Kniss is currently pursuing additional training to become a computer forensic examiner, which would allow him to provide even greater support to his team; and

WHEREAS, Detective Brett Kniss has contributed immeasurably to the vital work of the Franklin ICAC and the well-being of the citizens of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Detective Brett Kniss of the Franklin Police Department Criminal Investigation Division's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force on receiving the United States Attorney's Award for Excellence, thank him for his meritorious service to the children and families of the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.